

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 00707 211110 Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 NEA-05 ADP-00 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-09

IO-12 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-07 TRSE-00

USIA-12 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-14 L-03 AID-20 DODE-00

EB-05 PRS-01 PA-03 RSR-01 INRE-00 /138 W

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P R 211035 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6582

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 0707

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: HASHISH (MARIHUANA) FOUND ON AMERICAN SHIP
IN RANGOON

SUMMARY: BURMESE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED 48 SLABS OF
HASISH (MARIHUANA) ABOARD AMERICAN MERCHANT SHIP " LAFAYETTE"
WHICH ARRIVED RANGOON MARCH 21 AND DUE DEPART MARCH 22. CAPTAIN
OF VESSEL CLAIMS HASISH WAS OWNERLESS CONTRABAND AND THROUGH
SHIP' S AGENTS HAS OFFERED PAY MONETARY FINE TO PERMIT VESSEL TO
DEPART ON SCHEDULE. NOT YET KNOWN WHAT ACTION GUB WILL TAKE. END
SUMMARY.

1. AMERICAN MERCHANT SHIP " LAFAYETTE" (WATERMAN STEAMSHIP
CORPORATION, NEW YORK AND MOBILE, ALABAMA) ARRIVED RANGOON FROM
VISHAKHAPATNAM, INDIA 0930 MARCH 21 AND DUE DEPART 1200 MARCH 22.
BURMESE CUSTOMS SEARCH PARTY DISCOVERED 48 SLABS INDIAN PALM
BRAND HASISH (MARIHAUANA) NEAR VENTILATORS CLOSE TO CREWS
QUARTERS.

(LATER SEARCH DISCOVERED 5.5 OUNCES CUT MARIHUANA AND TWO OUNCES
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 00707 211110 Z

LOOSE MARIHUANA.) MASTER OF VESSEL, CAPTAIN A. R. BORDER, INSTITUTED INQUIRY AND DECLARED HASISH AS OWNERLESS CONTRABAND SINCE NO ONE ADMITTED OWNERSHIP. HASISH WEIGHT 17 POUNDS, VALUED AT US \$475 OR ABOUT 2,300 KYATS. SHIP'S CREW IS ENTIRELY AMERICAN.

2. CAPTIAN HAS REQUESTED GUB CUSTOMS AND PORT AUTHORITIES TREAT CASE LENIENTLY OWNING SMALL AMOUNT NARCOTICS INVOLVED AND HAS OFFERED PAY APPROPRIATE MONETARY FINE IN HOPE SHIP CAN BE PERMITTED DEPART ON SCHEDULE 1200 MARCH 22. BURMESE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES COMMENTED THAT HASHISH WITH SAME WRAPPINGS, ETC. HAD BEEN SEIZED RECENTLY IN KAMAYUT SUBURB OF RANGOON, AND THEREFORE SURMISED THAT CURRENT HAUL HAD BEEN DESTINED FOR OFF- LOADING HERE. SHIP IS DUE TO OFF- LOAD FURTHER CARGO IN CALCUTTA BEFORE RETURNING TO US EASTERN SEABOARD PORTS AND ENDING TRIP IN LOUISIANA. ON EARLIER TRIP OF SAME SHIP THE PREVIOUS MASTER HAD DISCOVERED 60 POUNDS HASHISH ABOARD.

3. WATERMAN AGENT IN CALCUTTA IS EVERETT ORIENT LINE, INC., WHOSE REPRESENTATIVE, J. C. SWIFT (UK), ARRIVED IN RANGOON RECENTLY ON SHIPPING LINE BUSINESS. HE HAS CABLED DETAILS OF CASE TO WATERMAN REGIONAL OFFICE IN MADRID AND IS AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS VIA EMBASSY INTERESTED PARTY CHANNELS. JAMES L. NICHOLS, HORORARY NORWEGIAN CONSUL HERE, A FRIEND OF SWIFT, IS HANDLING CASE WITH GUB AUTHORITIES.

4. ACCORDING SWIFT, PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS VISITED SHIP AFTERNOON MARCH 21, WHICH PROBABLY INDICATED NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY TOMORROW.

5. EMBASSY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SWIFT AND NICHOLS, WHO HOPING FOR EARLY DECISION.

6. EMBASSY DEFERRING COMMENTS PENDING DEVELOPMENTS IN NEXT TWENTY- FOUR HOURS.
MARTIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BANGKOK
CALCUTTA
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